MARVEL
DOCTOR WHO
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11
AUG
FREEZE, CREEP! I'M SPREADING YOU ALL OVER THIS JUNKHEAP PLANET!
THE DOCTOR STARS IN "THE DEAL" AND "END OF THE LINE!" PLUS: WHO NEWS, AN INTERVIEW WITH TERRANCE DICKS, AND ABSLOM DAAK, DALEK-KILLER!
GIBBONS

Stan Lee presents

INTRODUCTION by Jim Salicrup

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Knows where lost episodes are

Hello again and welcome to the eleventh elevating, eclecticly exciting issue of **DOCTOR WHO**. In case you missed the 22 point type above my name, this lil' column is called the *Introduction*, and that's just what we're going to do. In more ways than usual this time around, but we'll get to that later. First, I'd like to introduce you to our nifty new table of contents, which is right below this column and called *Who's On First*. We've got a lot of neat stuff for you this month — two thrilling tales of **the Doctor**; more of **Absalom Daak** (pronounced Dark), **Dalek-Killer**; an illuminating chat with **Terry Dicks**; and **Patrick Daniel O'Neill** tells us more about the recently uncovered **Jon Pertwee** episodes of *Doctor Who*.

Now, if this just happens to be your very first encounter with *Doctor Who*, a few more introductions are in order. *Doctor Who* is the name of the British Broadcasting Company's longest-running television program. The show's about the various incarnations of a renegade Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey who is known simply as **the Doctor**. Don't ask why the shows's called *Doctor Who* when it features a character called **the Doctor**, or some folks may think you're daft. That's just how it is in Whovian circles. Anyway, **the Doctor** travels through time and space in his TARDIS, which stands for the Time And Relative Dimensions In Space vehicle. If you're lucky, your local TV station runs the show on a regular basis. If not, and you think **the Doctor** may just be your cup of tea, write to your favorite local station and demand your *Doctor Who! This* magazine presents the official comic book adventures (which were originally published in black and white, in Marvel's British **DOCTOR WHO WEEKLY**) of **the Doctor**. To add a certain British flavor to the strip, we've maintained the original British spellings. If you're still confused, stick around a few issues and you'll soon be an expert on all things *Doctor Who*.

For those of you who were with us last month, you may recall my going on about launching a campaign to spread the word about our **DOCTOR WHO** comic book to those culturally deprived folks who never heard of us. Well, I've been beaten to the punch by our ever-alert Sales Department. A few months back, literally millions of radio listeners, in approximately 60 major radio markets nationwide, were introduced to Marvel's **DOCTOR WHO** comic, as well as **MARVEL FANFARE** and **DREADSTAR**, as part of a major promotional effort. Hundreds of issues of **DOCTOR WHO** were given away and many more were purchased at comic book stores as a result. "This is one of the most effective ways we've ever tried to bring comics to the public's attention," commented our Director of Specialty Sales **Carol Kalish** and we couldn't agree more. The stations participating were (and still are, we imagine) rock, country / western, and urban contemporary. We'd like to thank our Sales Department, all the radio stations and comic book stores which were involved, for a job well done. But most of all we want to thank *you* for buying this issue. We're working hard to continue to earn your loyal support by making this the very best comic it can be. After all, without you we're nothing.

See you in the future!

WHO'S ON FIRST

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DOCTOR WHO in THE DEAL

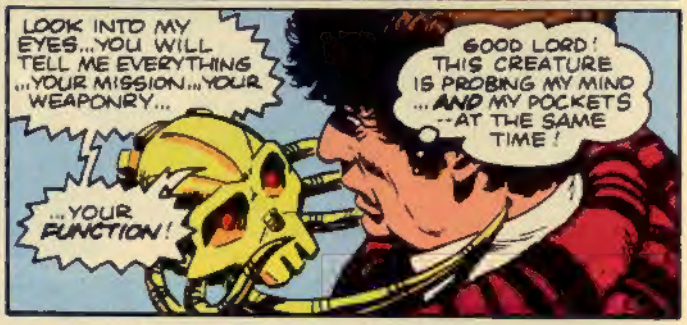
WRITER: **STEVE PARKHOUSE** / ARTIST: **DAVE GIBBONS** / EDITOR: **ALAN McKENZIE**

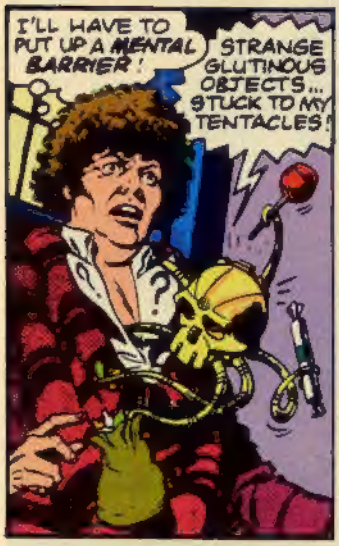
Originally presented in **DOCTOR WHO WEEKLY #53.**

BUT THEN...
STRANGE ...SEEMS TO BE SOME TURBULENCE OUTSIDE...
GOOD HEAVENS!
WHUMMP!
I CAN HARDLY MOVE! THERE'S A FORCE HOLDING ME DOWN...
IT'S...FADING SLOWLY...I MUST MAKE IT TO THAT WRECKAGE...
SOMEONE MAY BE HURT...
FREEZE!
PTOW
PTOW
PTOW
YOU WRECKED MY SHIP, YOU CREEP!
I'M GONNA SPREAD YOU ALL OVER THIS JUNKHEAP PLANET!
HELLO! GLAD YOU COULD DROP IN!
SHADDUP!

UP AGAINST THE WALL, BUG-EYES -AND BUTTON YA LIP!
SLAM!
I SAY, STEADY ON!

FRISK 'IM, SPIDER... I'LL TAKE A LOOK IN HERE!
?


LOOK INTO MY EYES...YOU WILL TELL ME EVERYTHING ...YOUR MISSION...YOUR WEAPONRY...
...YOUR FUNCTION!
GOOD LORD! THIS CREATURE IS PROBING MY MIND ...AND MY POCKETS --AT THE SAME TIME!

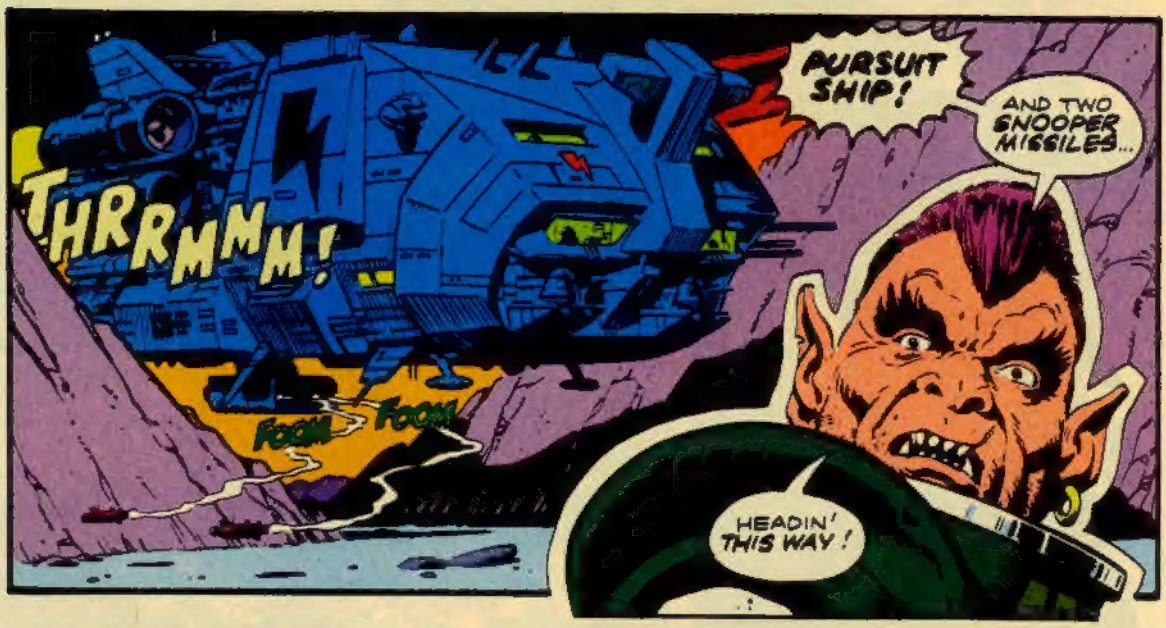

I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP A MENTAL BARRIER!
STRANGE GLUTINOUS OBJECTS... STUCK TO MY TENTACLES!

NOW'S MY CHANCE...
YOUR WILL IS WEAKENING!
YOU WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS!
LOOK AT ME...EMPTY YOUR CIRCUITS OF ALL ELECTRO-CEREBRAL ACTIVITY...

AND...
I AM SPIDER. A MOBILE COMPUTER TERMINAL... ARACHNID SERIES 300A...
ASSIGNED TO TROOPER 1000AK/76 CORPORAL 3RD CLASS OF THE 12TH TROUBLE 'CHUTERS...

ENGAGED ON A SCOUTING MISSION AND CURRENTLY PURSUED BY TWO ENEMY CRAFT!
SPIDER! CLAM UP!

LISTEN, CREEP...I'M A SOLDIER...A PRO! I KILL ...THEY PAY... THAT'S THE DEAL!
NOW TALK!
EXCUSE ME, IS THAT ANY-THING TO DO WITH YOU?


THRRMMM!
PURSUIT SHIP!
AND TWO SNOOPER MISSILES...
FOOM
FOOM
HEADIN' THIS WAY!

GET IN THERE... THOSE SNOOPERS CAN SNIFF OUT A COCKROACH AT FIFTY KILO-METRES!
>OOF<

C'MON... MOVE! GET THIS THING OFF THE GROUND!
THIS ISN'T A CONVENTIONAL FLYING MACHINE...
IT'S A TARDIS!
AND THE GRAVITATIONAL STABILISER IS ON THE BLINK!

AS YOU CAN SEE ON THE DISPLAY... THE TARDIS HAS DEVELOPED A HUGE GRAV-ITATIONAL FIELD...
IF I THROW THE POWER, WE'LL SINK INTO THE PLANET!
CUT THE CLAP-TRAP... AND HIT THE IGNITION!

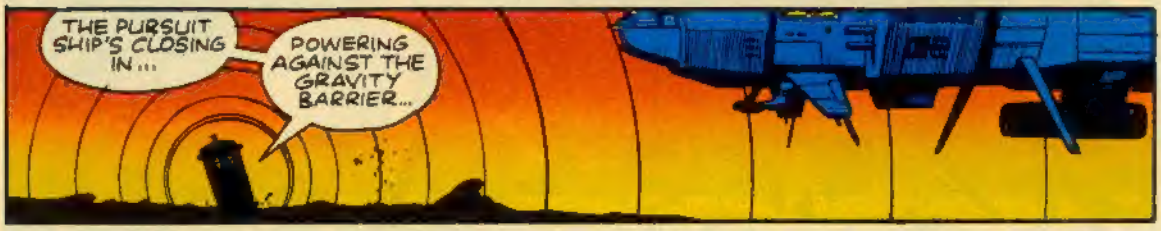
THAT GRAV' FIELD OF YOURS MADE MY SHIP THROW A WOBBLER...
WHO KNOWS? IT MAY WORK ON SNOOPERS!

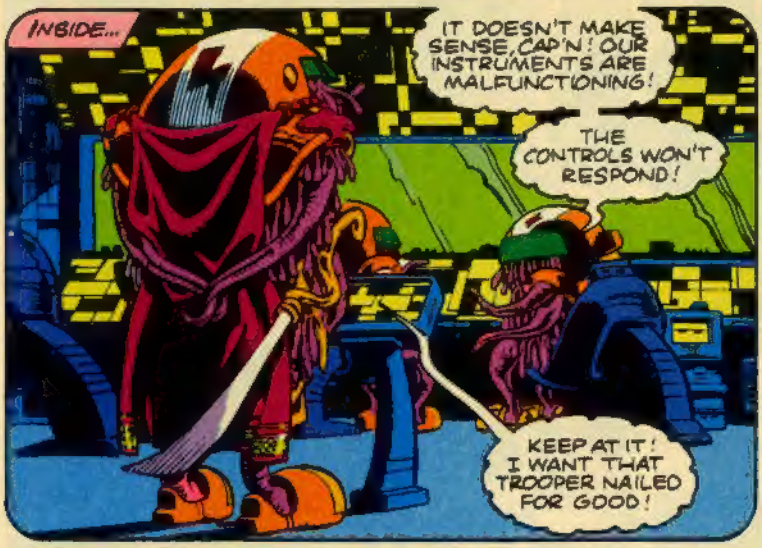
SEEING NO ALTERNATIVE...THE DOCTOR BOOSTS THE TARDIS INTO OVERDRIVE...
GENERATORS SCREAMING, THE TIME-MACHINE TILTS CRAZILY, STRAINING TO MOVE TOWARDS THE CORE OF THE PLANET!
POLICE BOX

AND...
?
?

!
!

B-BOOOOM!


THE PURSUIT SHIP'S CLOSING IN...
POWERING AGAINST THE GRAVITY BARRIER...


INSIDE...
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, CAP'N! OUR INSTRUMENTS ARE MALFUNCTIONING!
THE CONTROLS WON'T RESPOND!
KEEP AT IT! I WANT THAT TROOPER NAILED FOR GOOD!

NO MORE! THE TARDIS CAN'T TAKE IT!
RIGHT! OPEN THE DOOR!

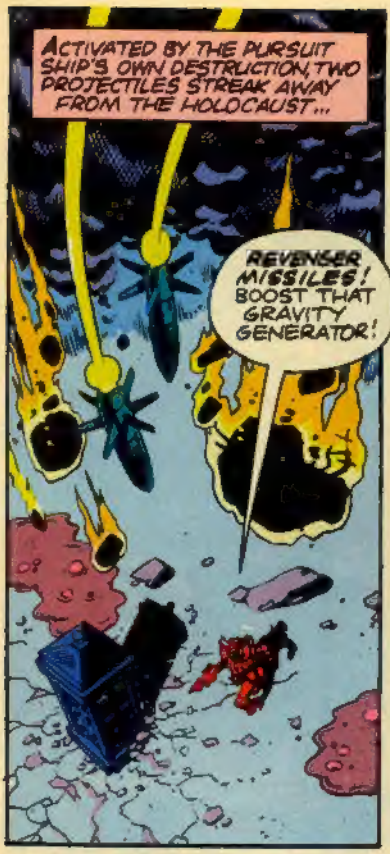
WHEN I GIVE THE NOD... KILL THE POWER!
HE'S MAD! WHAT CAN HE DO AGAINST A SHIP OF THAT SIZE?

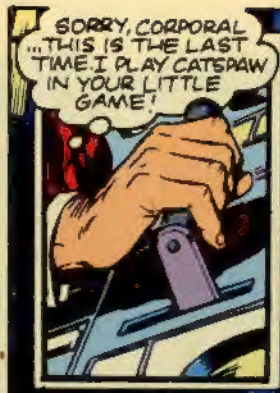
OKAY! TURN IT OFF... NOW!

FREED FROM THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL, THE ALIEN CRAFT SOARS OVERHEAD...
LIKE SHOOTIN' FISH IN A BARREL!

KLIK!
FWAM!

HA! I KILL... THEY PAY! THAT'S THE DEAL!
HE'S A MEGALO-MANIAC KILLING MACHINE! I'M BEING USED!


ACTIVATED BY THE PURSUIT SHIP'S OWN DESTRUCTION, TWO PROJECTILES STREAK AWAY FROM THE HOLOCAUST...
REVENGER MISSILES! BOOST THAT GRAVITY GENERATOR!


SORRY, CORPORAL ...THIS IS THE LAST TIME I PLAY CATSPAW IN YOUR LITTLE GAME!

AS THE TARDIS DOORS LOCK SHUT...
BAM BAM
WHAT GIVES? OPEN UP...DAMMIT!

KLUNK
SO... I'VE GOTTA FACE 'EM ALONE, HUH?
LET'S SEE IF THEY CAN TAKE A COUPLA MORTAR BLASTS!
KLIK

WHUMP!

CRUMP!

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I CHECKED THOSE STABILISERS...
AND NOW SEEMS LIKE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY!

AH... I SEE!
THE INTER-GROMMITER'S GONE ADRIFT... A TOUCH HERE... A TOUCH THERE... AND THAT'S IT!

BUT..!
HELL'S TEETH! A KING-SIZE PURSUIT SHIP!
VWO
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON??
YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME! ARRRGH!
VWORP
VWORP
VWORP
I DIE... WHAT THEN?
THIS WASN'T ...PART OF..
VWORP
...THE DEAL...!
VWORP
END

SOMEWHERE IN THE RANK, DANK DARKNESS OF AN UNDERGROUND CHAMBER, A BLUE LIGHT FLICKERS...
SENSORS INDICATE A LARGE CONURBATION ... BE NICE TO HAVE SOME CIVILIZED COMPANY AT LAST...
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
THEATRES ... CINEMAS ... BRIGHT LIGHTS...
OH DEAR... THIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO PROMISING...
BEEP BEEP BEEP
THE GEIGER COUNTER'S REGISTERING A HIGH LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVITY...
>SNIFF< DOESN'T SMELL TOO GOOD, EITHER!
BEEP... BEEP
WELL, I'VE FOUND THE BRIGHT LIGHTS... MAYBE NOW I CAN SEE EXACTLY WHERE I AM...
STRANGE... THEY SEEM TO BE GETTING CLOSER
I'M GETTING AN UNEASY FEELING ABOUT THIS...
DOCTOR WHO
END OF THE LINE
WHY IS IT THAT WHEREVER I GO...
I'M ALWAYS IN THE WAY?
RUMMBLE!
CLANK!

BET IF I WERE IN A HURRY..
I COULD WAIT ALL AFTERNOON...
FOR A TRAIN!
SCREEEEECH!
THANK GOODNESS I DIDN'T CHOOSE THE RUSH HOUR!
HISSSS
CLUNK
AH...THERE'S SOMEONE..
HEAVENS! HE LOOKS ALMOST AT DEATH'S DOOR!
MY DEAR MAN... YOU LOOK ILL...
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
GAG - GAAR... SHLRMF.. BLLR.
FOOD!
GET IT WHILE IT'S WARM!
LEMME AT IT!
SAVE ME THE WISHBONE!

PLENNY O' MEAT ON DAT ONE!
OH, I GET THE IDEA YOU CHAPS ARE OUT ON A PICNIC...
...AND I'M THE PACKED LUNCH!
SLICE!
YOU SAID IT, MAN...
STAND STILL AND GET UN-WRAPPED!
I HATE TO LEAVE YOU FELLOWS HUNGRY...BUT I'VE GOT A TRAIN TO CATCH!
SLAM!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN KEEP THIS UP...
CRAASH!
THESE BRUTES ARE UN-STOPPABLE!
IT GETS WORSE ...EVEN THE DOORS CAN'T HOLD THEM...
I'D BETTER MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!
C'MERE, FAT BOY! I'VE GOTTA BONE TO PICK WITH YOU!
DON'T LET 'IM GO, YOU NERK! I AIN'T ATE FOR SIX DAYS!
LOOK AT THEM FAT FINGERS!
THEM PLUMP ARMS!
WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY IS THIS? THEY MUST BE LITERALLY STARVING!
NOBODY WOULD DO THIS FOR FUN!
...WOULD THEY?
?
WE GOT 'IM NOW! HE'S JUST SPAM IN A CAN!
BRUTE FORCE WON'T STOP THEM...
IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE!

BUT THE NIGHTMARE WON'T GO AWAY!

OH, NO!

SO THIS IS THE CITY! IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A GIGANTIC RAT-TRAP!

NO BRIGHT LIGHTS...NO CINEMAS ...JUST POLLUTION, WASTE AND UNBOUNDED GLOOM!

IS THIS HOW IT ENDS... AFTER FOUR INCARNATIONS?
PINNED DOWN IN SOME COSMIC BACKWATER...
SKEWERED LIKE A KEBAB?
SO THERE YOU ARE, CHAPS... BON APPETIT!

GET OUTTA THE WAY!
I'M COMIN' THROUGH!
OY! STOP SHOVIN'! THERE'S ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US!
NAFF OFF, YOU NERKS! I'M TAKIN' FIRST BITE ON THIS ONE!

THEN, TO THE DOCTOR'S RELIEF ... THE TRAIN BEGINS TO SLOW...
>PHEW!< MY STOP, I BELIEVE!

BUT, AS THE DOORS CRANK OPEN...
MORE OF THEM UP AHEAD! WHAT DO THEY THINK THIS IS... MEALS ON WHEELS?

THEN, AS THE DOORS SLIDE SHUT...
SLAM

DRAT! I KNEW THIS SCARF WOULD BE MY UNDOING SOME DAY!
THE TRAINS PULLING OUT... AND TAKING ME WITH IT!

FACE IT, FRIEND! YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!

ON THE CONTRARY! I'M STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE!
BUT FOR HOW MUCH LONGER, I WONDER?

A WILD SWING FROM A GLEAMING BLADE SEVERS THE DOCTOR'S SCARF...
SNK
BUT THE ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE TOO GREAT...

OOF!

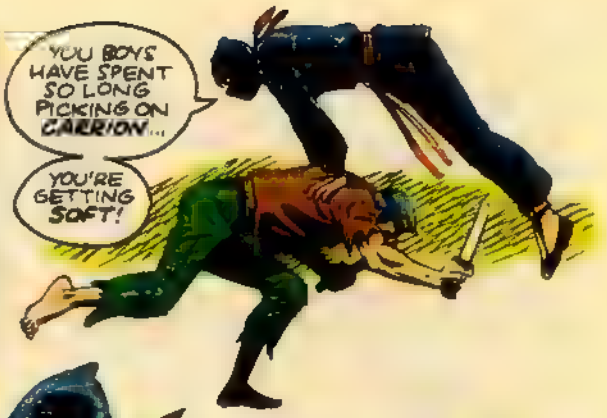
GNNN!

REMEMBER THE RULES! SOFT ORGANS GO TO THE LEADER! THAT'S ME!
YOU'RE WELCOME! I'LL TAKE SPARE RIBS ANY DAY!
NAH! SKIN'S THE THING!

AS FOR ME...I LIKE BLOOD! BUCKETS O' BLOOD!
TRY SOME OF YOUR OWN, PUNK!
AAAGH!

WELL... LOOK WHO IT ISN'T!
RATS! IT'S THAT BLASTED ANGEL AGAIN!
ALWAYS SPOILIN' OUR FUN!

WELL, NOBODY'S GONNA SPOIL MY FUN!
TRY IT, CREEP...I'D JUST LOVE YOU TO TRY IT!

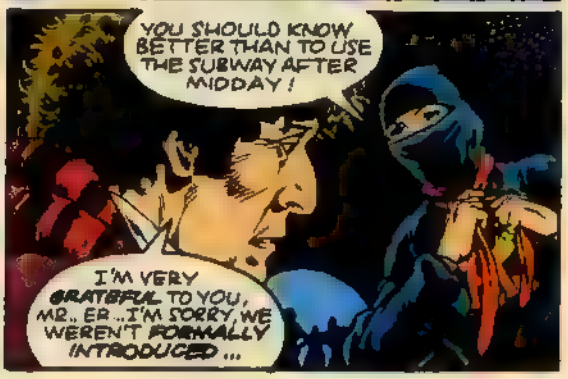

YOU BOYS HAVE SPENT SO LONG PICKING ON CARRION...
YOU'RE GETTING SOFT!

FWAM!
THWOP!

AHA! YOU'VE BEEN TAKING LESSONS!
THING IS...YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE BASIC RULES OF STREET FIGHTING... LIKE WHENEVER YOU CAN...

...USE YOUR HEAD!

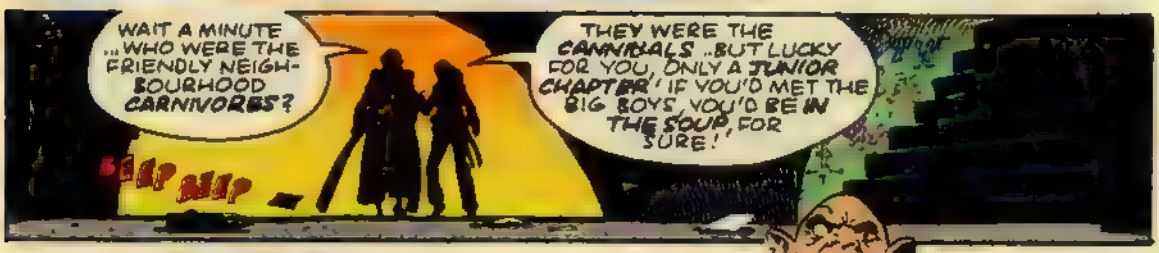
I'M PUTTING AN END TO THIS FARCE... RIGHT NOW!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!


YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO USE THE SUBWAY AFTER MIDDAY!
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU, MR.. ER ..I'M SORRY, WE WEREN'T FORMALLY INTRODUCED...

I'M ANGEL... I'M WITH THE GUARDIAN ANGELS
WE TRY AND KEEP THE PEACE IN THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE...
DON'T WORRY...I'M STRICTLY VEGETARIAN!

I'M THE DOCTOR... DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU...
DOCTOR?!

THIS IS A FATEFUL MEETING, DOCTOR... PLEASE COME WITH ME!
THE GUARDIAN ANGELS MAY HAVE NEED OF YOU!
REALLY?


WAIT A MINUTE ...WHO WERE THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD CARNIVORES?
THEY WERE THE CANNIBALS ..BUT LUCKY FOR YOU, ONLY A JUNIOR CHAPTER! IF YOU'D MET THE BIG BOYS, YOU'D BE IN THE SOUP, FOR SURE!
BEEP BEEP

BEEP BEEP BEEEP

BEEEEP BEEEP BEEP BEEEEEP BEEEP

CRUNCH!

DAM' THEM ANGELS! DAM' EM ALL!
SHARPEN YOUR KNIVES, MEN... WE'RE GONNA SCATTER THEIR BONES ALL OVER THIS STINKIN' CITY!
NEXT
YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!

WHO KNOWS

A monthly report on happenings in the world of *Doctor Who*

by **Patrick Daniel O'Neill**

MORE ON PERTWEE

Last month we told you that 10 more adventures starring **Jon Pertwee** as the Third **Doctor** had been released for syndication in the United States. Well, here's some more information.

As some of you may know, a few years ago, the BBC discovered great gaps in its archives of *Doctor Who* material, caused by a combination of sloppy record-keeping and the requirement to erase tapes of materials which can no longer be broadcast because of expired contracts with actors, technicians, etc. But when the BBC realized that *Who* was a marketable property, those contracts were renegotiated, and efforts were made to recover the missing adventures and episodes. To date, all of **Pertwee** (with one exception), **Tom Baker**, **Davison** and **Colin Baker** are complete, in one form or another, while there are still numerous gaps in the **Hartnell** and **Troughton** periods.

Well, of the ten newly syndicated **Pertwees**, only four are complete and in color: "Spearhead from Space," "The Curse of Peladon," "Frontier in Space," and "Planet of the Daleks." A fifth, "Invasion of the Dinosaurs," is in color, but has been edited to allow for a missing first episode. The other five stories are complete, but in black-and-white film versions.

The first episode of "Invasion" is missing through a case of the previously mentioned sloppy record-keeping: in order to maintain the surprise of the dinosaurs' appearance, the title on that first half-hour is just "Invasion," identical to that of a 1968 **Troughton** adventure, and thus it was erased when the **Troughton** story was.

Speaking of **Troughton**, Lionheart TV International is preparing a package of five of the Second **Doctor's** adventures for release in the U.S. More on that as details become available

And in a future *Who Knows*, a report on exactly what (and *Who*) is in the BBC Archives, and what is still to be found.

CANADIAN CON

In our never-ending effort to keep *Who* fans apprised of all the activities around the world, here's the word on a convention in Canada. The Doctor Who Information Network are holding their Who Party 7 on May 25-26, 1985 in Ontario. For further information write Who Party 7, 104 Kingston Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2B 2T7. This could be an excellent chance for U.S. fans to learn more about the early years of the series, since Canadians have been watching the adventures of **the Doctor** since the late '60s, at least.

WHO TO CONTACT

Several readers have written to ask how they can contact the performers in *Doctor Who*. My illustrious editor, **Jim Sallcrup** (the one who writes the inside front covers), has turned those over to me to answer, so here goes:

First of all, producer **John Nathan-Turner**, script editor **Eric Saward**, and current regulars **Colin Baker** and **Nicola Bryant** can all be reached at —

Doctor Who Production Office
BBC TV
TV Centre
Wood Lane
London W12

The other **Doctors** can be reached as follows:

Patrick Troughton (**Doctor** 2)
c/o Filmrights Ltd.
113 Wardour St.
London W1

Jon Pertwee (**Doctor** 3)
c/o **Richard Stone**
18-20 York Buildings
London WC2

Tom Baker (**Doctor** 4)
c/o London Management
235 / 241 Regent St.
London W1A 2JR

Peter Davison (**Doctor** 5)
c/o **John Mahoney**
30 Chalfont Ct.
Baker St.
London NW1 5RS

Next month, a list of addresses for some of the more recent companions.

NEXT ISSUE:

WHO

Interview with Terrance Dicks

by Ken Hart

Terrance Dicks' career as a writer for British television has contained quite a few successes over the past two decades. He's written several stories for *The Avengers*, and was asked to script an episode for *Space: 1999* ("The Lambda Factor"). In addition, he's currently involved with *BBC Family Classics*, shown in the U.S. as *Once Upon a Classic*. He is, however, best known for his extensive association with *Doctor Who*. He began as script editor on the series near the end of the **Patrick Troughton (Doctor #2)** era in 1968, and lasted throughout **Jon Pertwee's** five years. **Dicks** is also responsible for over half of the nearly 90 *Doctor Who* novelizations from W. H. Allen (his latest novel, "Warriors of the Deep," is from **Peter Davison's** final season). He co-wrote (with **Malcolm Hulke**) "The War Games," **Troughton's** last story and the first tale to mention the Time Lords and **the Doctor's** origins. His most recent script was "The Five Doctors," the show's twentieth anniversary special.

"Nothing on *Doctor Who* is preplanned," said **Dicks** during a recent convention in Philadelphia The procedure in choosing which stories will be novelized is somewhat "haphazard" and "improvised," like **the Doctor** himself.

Will there ever be any *original Doctor Who* novels? **Dicks** said simply, "It's not necessary." Many novels have been derived from *Star Trek*, but there's a major difference between the two programs: *Trek* was on the air for three years, while *Doctor Who* is entering its 22nd season. For the British Broadcasting Corporation, **Dicks** claimed, this represents a "goldmine;" as long as there are *Who* stories yet to be novelized, there probably won't be any original stories in paperback

UNIT (United Nations Intelligence Taskforce), which is assigned to protect Earth from alien conquest, debuted in "The Invasion," starring **Patrick Troughton. Dicks** was present at the creation of UNIT, "although that was really done more by **Peter Bryant**, who was the producer, and **Derrick Sherwin**, who was the script editor then." (UNIT's commander had been introduced in a previous story, "The Web of Fear," as ***Colonel* Lethbridge-Stewart**.) UNIT has since reappeared many times, particularly during the **Pertwee** years, when **the Doctor** had been exiled to Earth by the Time Lords. "The reasons for that were basically economic," **Dicks** said. The BBC "wanted to bring the show 'down to Earth,' because it had gotten so expensive to always go up into space." However, then-producer **Barry Letts**, **Dicks** and others soon found this situation to be too limiting. "Anyway, I think it's kind of in the nature of him in *Doctor Who* that he travels in time and space . . . you can't keep him on Earth for too long."

Verity Lambert, the program's original producer, said in **Tulloch** and **Alvarado's** new analysis, *Doctor Who — The Unfolding Text*, that **the Doctor** had become too conventional, too Earth-bound, during the **Letts / Pertwee** years.

"That's fair enough," **Dicks** responded. "As I say, it was quite simply an attempt to save money . . . but it didn't work in story terms. We gradually broke away in one or two of the stories, and then went back to where we started, when he got the TARDIS going again," in "The Three Doctors."

Dicks also had a great deal to do with the creation of **the Doc-**

tor's arch-nemesis, that evil renegade Time Lord, **the Master** "**Barry Letts** and I worked out **the Master** between us in the **Pertwee** days, simply on the analogy that a super hero needs a master villain." **The Doctor** had been compared to **Sherlock Holmes**, "and we decided that **the Doctor** needs his **Moriarty**."

Contrary to fan rumor, there was no "ultimate" **Doctor / Master** story explaining their relationship in the works, when **Roger Delgado** (who originally portrayed **the Master**) was killed in an auto accident. However, **Dicks** is glad that **the Master** (now played by **Anthony Ainley**) has returned to plague **the Doctor**. "They need each other," he said.

After leaving the position of script editor, **Dicks** wrote the first **Tom Baker** adventure, "Robot." (He had gone to the BBC, claiming that there was a long tradition on the series in which the retiring script editor wrote the next story.) Most of the scripts **Dicks** later worked on had a supernatural quality: "The Brain of Morbius" (Frankenstein), "The Horror of Fang Rock" (the "thing-in-the-lighthouse"), and "State of Decay" (vampires). **Dicks** admitted he likes horror stories and movies. "Robot," he said, was based on "King Kong," The robot grows to a monumental height and walks off with **Sarah Jane**.

His original draft for "The Brain of Morbius" was somewhat different from **Robin Bland's** completed script, in which the scientist **Solon** fashions a body for the evil **Morbius**. "Instead of **Solon**,"

Dicks said, "**Morbius** was going to have a robot" attempt to make another body for him. "That was the reason the body turned out so badly."

Dicks had also planned to use "State of Decay" for the 1977-78 season, with **Leela**, but the BBC

The BBC "wanted to bring the show 'down to Earth'."

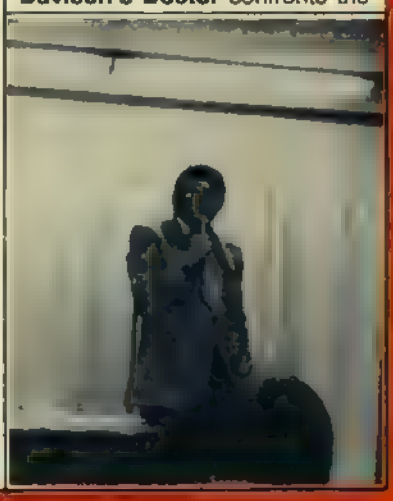
didn't want any competition with their own adaptation of *Dracula*, starring **Louis Jourdan**. The story was eventually made during the 1980-81 season, with **Romana** and **Adric**

When writing the novelizations, **Dicks** said he refers to both the shooting script and the videotape. "Some of the earlier episodes aren't available" to him on tape, "so you have to rely more on the script." How much expanding should be done in the novels? "Well, some things you *have* to expand, like what do people think . . . and feel, and also you have to add descriptions of characters, sets, and atmosphere," but he doesn't think they should go beyond that. **Ian Marter (Harry Sullivan** during **Tom Baker's** first two seasons) has written novelizations which expand quite a bit, in terms of events and violence. **Dicks** said, "That's a different way of doing it. My feeling is that the job of the books is to reflect the television show, and that's what they're for."

Because writers are usually asked to contribute to the show, **Dicks** doesn't really have any great, unused plot ideas lying about After a writer is invited to do a script, "you then try to come up with an idea that they like. So, in a sense, all the ideas that I've had, I've used . . . and one tends not so much to start thinking of ideas in the abstract. I'm not saying it couldn't happen; the idea for a marvelous *Doctor Who* story might float right into my head, but, professionally, you're much more geared to somebody saying, like, 'Would you like to write "The Five Doctors"?' Okay, fine, what am I going to do? That's when you sit down and start sweating out the story."

The BBC had originally told **Dicks** that all five **Doctors** would be available (**Richard Hurndall** had been chosen to portray the original **Doctor**, created by the late **William Hartnell**, and the other four had supposedly agreed to appear, according to the BBC) As **Dicks** completed his first draft, he received a call from the BBC: **Tom Baker** would not be in the special. **Dicks** said he didn't really mind, since, from a technical standpoint, it's easier to divide story time among four **Doctors** than among five.

In the completed version, **Peter Davison's Doctor** confronts the



High Council, while his first three selves play the Game of Rassilon, and the fourth **Doctor** is trapped in the space/time vortex. (For the scenes of **Baker's Doctor** and **Lalla Ward's Romana**, producer **John Nathan-Turner** used footage from "Shada," written by **Douglas Adams** (known for his *Hitchhiker* series). This story had nearly completed filming, when work was halted by a strike at the BBC. Subsequent cast changes made any resumption of filming impossible, so, unfortunately, the footage for "Shada" lies in the BBC vault.) In **Dicks'** original draft, **Tom Baker's Doctor** has a much larger role: *he* is the one who confronts **Borusa** and **the Castellan**, while **Davison** joins the first **Doctor** in infiltrating the Tomb of Rassilon.

Dicks also said that he planned to use **the Master** as the behind-the-scenes villain, but script editor **Eric Saward** told him that everybody *knows* it's going to be **the Master** from the time the program starts. Realizing that **Saward** was absolute right, **Dicks** made **Lord President Borusa** the antagonist who seeks to rule Gallifrey for eternity.

How long does it usually take to write a *Doctor Who* script? It depends partially, **Dicks** said, on how much time you're given. "The hard part is getting the basic idea and story structure right. Once you've gotten that, then you can say, 'Okay, I'll put in 70 hours at the typewriter, then I'll finish it this week, or by the end of next week.' But it's the thinking time, the creative time, that it's hard to be sure about." Novelizations, however, are different because the "hard work" has already been done.

"With 'The Five Doctors,'" he continued, "it was when I came up with the concept of the Game that the whole thing began to fit together. But you can never tell how long it would take you. Actually, I got that idea fairly quickly. I started thinking about them being kidnapped out of time and space, and that was really the basis of the whole story."

"Although it's an action show, you have to be careful that you don't have anything too gruesome."

Dicks warned new writers that it's very tough breaking into the British TV market. It would be extremely difficult for an American to write a script for *Doctor Who*, simply because the distances involved would make any face-to-face story conferences impractical. He did suggest that writers do send in plot summaries to the BBC, if they feel they have a good enough concept. Although the chances are slim that the plot will be accepted, it certainly doesn't hurt to try.

When asked if there are any forbidden elements when writing a *Doctor Who* script, he said, "There are certain limitations because of the time slot, which is early evening. And although it's not — and hasn't been for years — a children's show, at the same time you've got to be aware of that. So there are obvious limitations on sex and violence, say, . . . although it's an action show, you have to be careful that you don't have anything too gruesome," but since that often depends on the way a scene is filmed, it's more of a problem for the director and producer than for the writer.

Dicks said that what matters more to the writer is what must go *into* the script: "keeping it moving: action, excitement, the pace and also, of course, something to make it different from all the other nine hundred *Doctor Who* stories that you're in competition with."

He doesn't tailor the vocabulary or sentence structure of his novelizations to suit the younger section of the show's audience. He said he writes the books "fairly straightforwardly, but that happens to be my style of writing, anyway." If children want to read one of the novels, then they should be able to understand most of what's going on, "and if they don't understand a word, they can skip it or they can ask somebody, 'What does "disintegrator" mean?' or something like that."

In regards to a writers' union in Britain, **Dicks** said, "The BBC doesn't operate a closed shop, so there's no kind of thing you're

forced to join. But there is a good, and quite influential, union called the Writers Guild." It used to be called the Screenwriters Guild, but it's since expanded to take in other media. **Dicks** is a member, as are most other professionals, he thinks, but it's not compulsory.

Would he ever consider writing for the big screen? "Yeah . . . but the problem is, you see, that there are long odds on a movie script ever getting made, so you'd have to do a great deal of speculation." Having agents circulate scripts is, on the other hand, a good thing to do.

"I've always tended to work on actual jobs, where I knew there was a job, and I knew that somebody wanted it. And, luckily, I've always had enough of those to keep me going." **Dicks** added that he mostly works on projects that he knows are going to be bought, and they usually take precedence over any other concepts.

He doesn't expect to be asked to contribute a script for **Colin Baker's** new **Doctor**. "The Five Doctors" was a "special occasion," he said. His experience with the previous incarnations made him the best choice to write that story, but current producer **John Nathan-Turner** is, for the most part, drawing upon a new group of writers. **Dicks** said that with changes in producer and script editor, there are always changes in the "pool of writers." "They will find their own people, and it's part of their job. It's quite right that they should." He also pointed out there are no such things as "Doctor Who writers," merely writers for *Doctor Who*.

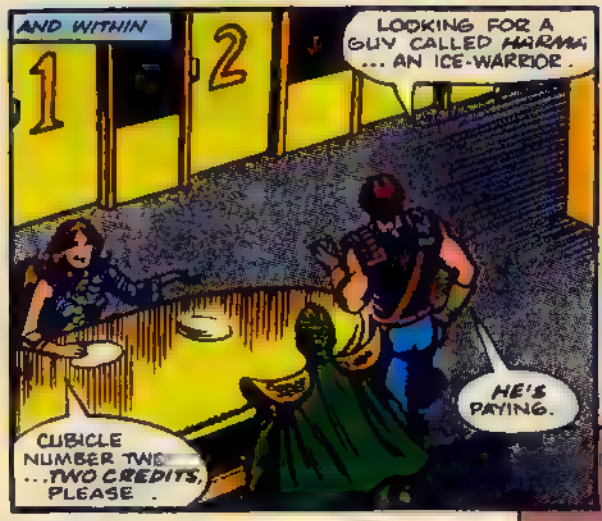
When both **Tom Baker** and **Peter Davison** announced their respective departures, there was constant buzzing in the British media that the new **Doctor** would be a woman. Does **Terrance Dicks** think this will ever happen? "I think a Time Lord has enough problems without going through a sex change."

STAR TIGERS
ABSLOM DAAK, DALEK-KILLER, AND PRINCE SALANDER HAVE FLED THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE IN A PROTOTYPE ATTACK-SHIP, THE KILL-WAGON. NOW THEY PICK THEIR WAY THROUGH A TURBULENT GALAXY, IN SEARCH OF A CREW
TWO GUYS I WANT TO FIND. HARMA, AN ICE-WARRIOR, AND VOL MERCURIOUS, AN EARTHMAN.
WE'LL PICK UP HARMA FIRST HE'S CLOSEST.
WHERE ISSS HE?
IN PARADISE...
YOU MEAN HE'SSS DEAD?
NO, I SHOULD'VE SAID ON PARADISE...IT'LL TAKE US A COUPLE OF DAYS TO GET THERE..
AND
THERE YOU ARE, SALANDER PARADISE!
A GREAT BIG, BEAUTIFUL WORLD!
FINEST FUN-HOUSE IN THE GALAXY
YOU CAN GET ANYTHING HERE ABSOLUTELY ANY-THING YOU WANT SO LONG AS YOU CAN PAY THE PRICE.
AND I HAVEN'T BEEN IN A HOT-SPOT LIKE THIS FOR FAR TOO LONG!
BUT AS THEY LEAVE THE SPACE-PORT
DREAM SHOP
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIND HARMA HE COULD BE ANYWHERE ON THE ENTIRE PLANET..?
SIMPLE... ...I ASK A POLICEMAN
Burgers
Mmmm!

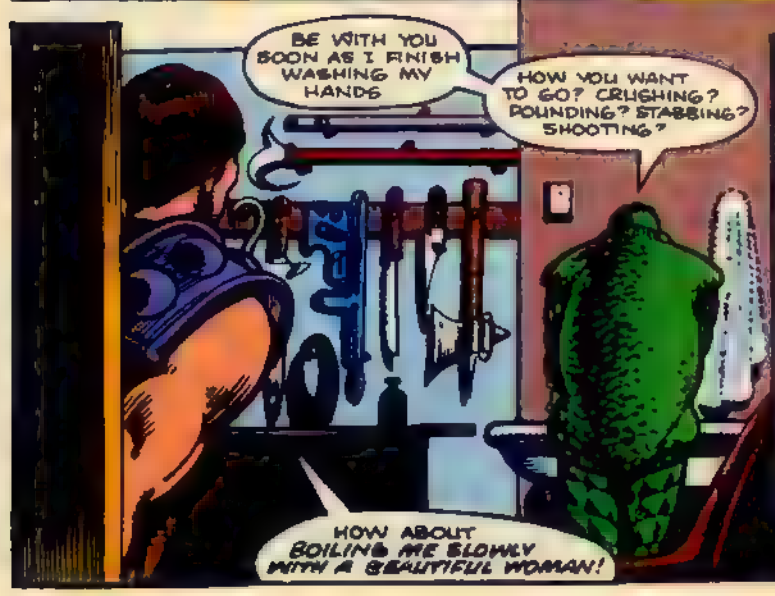
HEY, FELLA... WHERE'S A GUY GO ROUND HERE IF HE WANTS TO GET MURDERED..?
ALL THE CREEP-STUFF'S DOWN ON 4th STREET...
BUT YOU SURPRISE ME, EARTHMAN..

I THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY THE YORKFLITES WHO GET A KICK OUT OF BEING EXECUTED...
YEAH, WELL, I'VE BEEN THROUGH IT ONCE .. AND I KINDA LIKE IT!

WHY SHOULD HARMA BE AROUND HERE..?
Slash Killerstein's
MURDERAMA
THE ULTIMATE THRILL!!
EASY. HE'S TOO SIMPLE TO GET A REAL JOB... BUT HE TOLD ME HE ALWAYS HAD A TRADE HE COULD FALL BACK ON...


AND WITHIN
1
2
LOOKING FOR A GUY CALLED HARMA ... AN ICE-WARRIOR.
HE'S PAYING.
CUBICLE NUMBER TWO ...TWO CREDITS, PLEASE.

WAIT! YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED THE LIABILITY RELEASE!
LADY, THIS AIN'T GONNA BE NO LIABILITY...
YOU ACCEPT DRACONIAN CRYSSSTALESSE?


BE WITH YOU SOON AS I FINISH WASHING MY HANDS
HOW YOU WANT TO GO? CRUSHING? POUNDING? STABBING? SHOOTING?
HOW ABOUT BOILING ME SLOWLY WITH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!

SORRY, CAN'T GET THE OIL FOR THE HEATING.
ABSLOM DAAK?!

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR SO LONG! HEARD YOU'D BONE DALEK-KILLER!
WHAT YOU DOING STILL ALIVE?
Death by Torture is our Speciality!
TRYING TO STAY ALIVE, YOU BIG GEEK! I DIDN'T ASK FOR THE CRUSHING!
AND WHEN DAAK HAS BRIEFLY RECOUNTED HIS ADVENTURES...
SO I WANT YOU FOR CREW, HARMA. WHAT D'YOU SAY?
IT'D BE REALLY GOOD. BUT ONE PROBLEM OF HONOUR! I WORK HERE UNDER CONTRACT...
SO FORGET YOUR MARTIAN HONOUR...
I CAN'T...A WARRIOR NEVER BREAKS HIS CONTRACT ABSLOM..
YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED ME OUTSIDE .
BECAUSE I'M CONTRACT-BOUND TO KILL EVERYONE THAT WALKS THROUGH THAT DOOR!
OUTSIDE..
THAT'S FUNNY YOUR FRIEND SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN THERE A LONG TIME WITHOUT ANYTHING HAPPENING..
Try Our Funeral Service!
AH, THERE WE GO...VERY EFFICIENT, HARMA IS...
WOKK!
FUNNY PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY PUT UP A STRUGGLE
SLIKK!
AH, ALL QUIET NOW! IT'S OVER
2
GIVE ME A HAND, SALANDER, WITH HIM
1
2
I HAD TO HIT HIM ON HIS WEAK POINTS BEFORE HE'D GO DOWN .
AND THEY'RE KINDA HARD TO FIND ON AN ICE-WARRIOR!

YOU MUST HAVE MADE A *MISTAKE!* THIS IS WHERE YOU GET *MURDERED!*

KILLING PEOPLE'S *NEXT DOOR!*

NEW Hack Yourself to Death!

RELAX, HONEY. HE *AIN'T DEAD*... BUT HE *IS* BREAKING HIS CONTRACT.

AND, AS THEY SCAN THE SKY FOR AN AIR-CAB...

DO YOU HAVE *ANY* FRIENDSSS WHO *AREN'T* CRIMINALSSS, ABSSLOM DAAK?

HELL, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH *HARMA!*

HE'S *LISENSED!*

AIRCAB

LATER, WHEN THE KILL-WAGON IS SPACE BOUND ONCE MORE

BUT APART FROM HIM.. WELL I JUST DON'T *HAVE* MANY FRIENDS..

NOT *ALIVE*, ANYWAY...

YOU'VE NOT SAID A *WORD* SINCE YOU WOKE UP, HARMA! WHAT IS THE *MATTER?*

BROKE MY CONTRACT... BAD THING TO DO.

YOU *DIDN'T*, YOU MARTIAN MORON! I BROKE IT *FOR* YOU!

ALMOST BROKE MY BLASTED *FIST* ON YOUR *THICK SKULL*, TOO!

NOW, *STRAIGHTEN OUT*... I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP *MERCURIUS* IN LINE!

YOUR CRIMINAL FRIENDSSS SSSEEM *HARD TO HANDLE*, ABSSLOM DAAK..

SURE MERCURIUS IS A *CRIMINAL*... AND SURE HE'S *HARD TO HANDLE*...

BUT WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HIM BEING A *FRIEND?*

STAR TIGERS

CONVICTED MURDERER ABSLOM DRAK AND PRINCE SALANDER HAVE FLED THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE IN A NEW ATTACK-SHIP, THE KILL-WAGON. EN ROUTE FROM THE PLANET PARADISE, WHERE THEY HAVE PICKED UP MARMA, AN ICE-WARRIOR, THEY NOW VOYAGE THROUGH SPACE IN SEARCH OF A FOURTH CREW-MEMBER.

BUT OUR TALE BEGINS AT GROUND LEVEL, ON A VAST GRASSY PLAIN THAT STRETCHES ACROSS THE RICH AND PLEASANT PLANET DISPATER...

WHERE STANDS AN ANCIENT TOWER, DARK-STONED AND LONELY. IT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED MANY TIMES OVER THE CENTURIES, BUT WHO BUILT IT IS A MYSTERY. IT HAS SIMPLY BEEN HERE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL...

YOU'RE PLAYING WELL, TODAY KLIKBRAIN...

AH, WELL, YOU TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW ...WHEN YOU PROGRAMMED ME WITH EVERYTHING YOU KNOW...

YET THOUGH IT'S PAST IS LONG, IT'S FUTURE IS...UNCERTAIN...

MY MOVE, I THINK!

TIK! TIK!

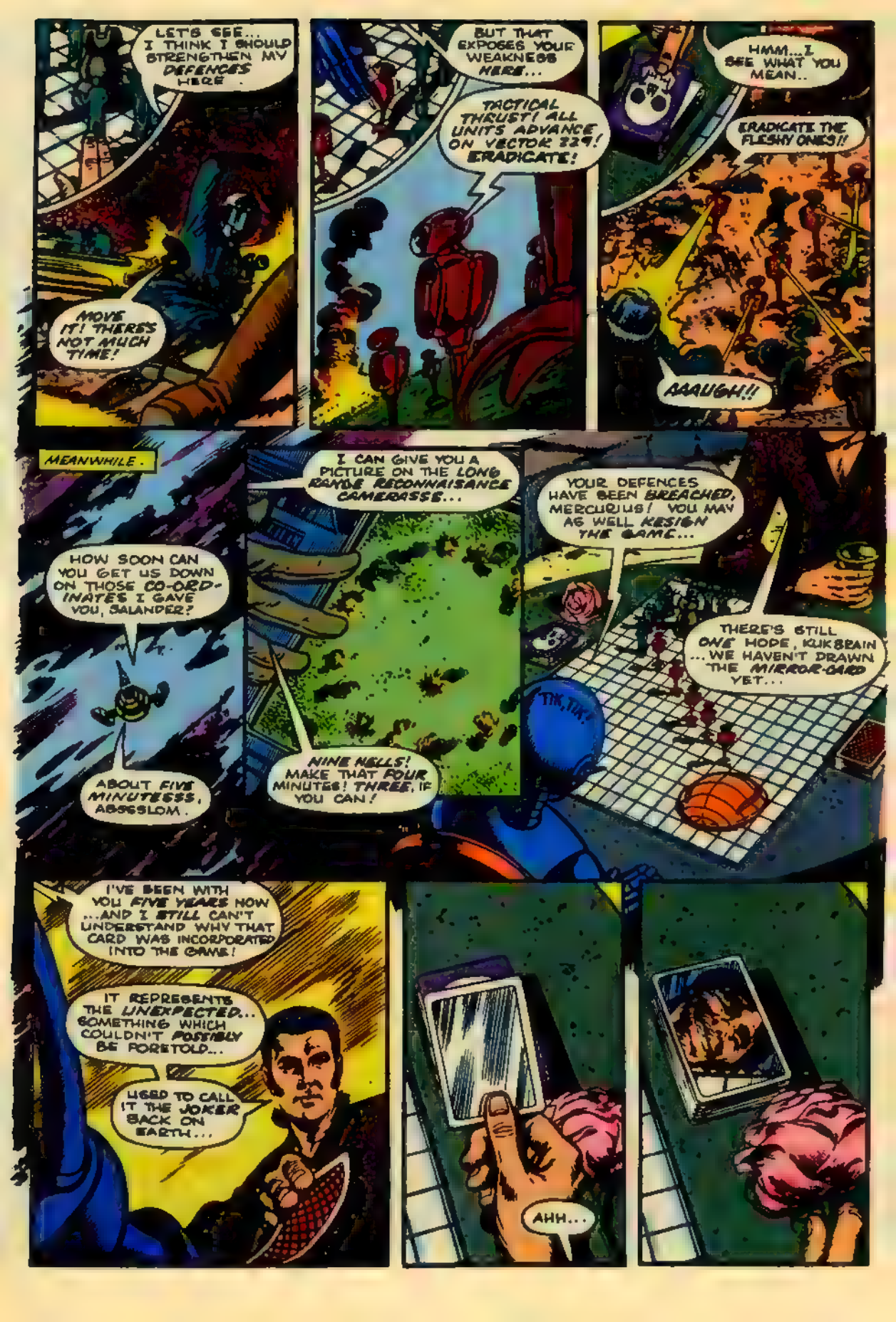
ALL YOUR KNOWLEDGE, YOUR REASONING POWERS. ARE MINE TOO! THAT'S WHY YOU BUILT ME, REMEMBER? AS THE PERFECT INTELLECTUAL COMPANION..

IN THAT CASE IT SHOULDN'T WORRY ME THAT I'M BEING BEATEN...BY MYSELF..!

STILL... I DON'T SEEM TO BE HAVING MUCH LUCK TODAY..

THWOK!

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST VOID...
THISSS YOU, MERCURIUSSS WE'RE LOOKING FOR ...YOU SAY HE'SS NOT A FRIEND?
LET'S SAY WE WERE BUSINESS PARTNERS, A LONG TIME AGO...
THERE WERE THREE OF US... HIM, ME...
AND A BEAUTIFUL BABE CALLED SELENE...
TOGETHER WE DEFRAUDED PAN-GALACTIC SHIPPERS OF FOUR BILLION...
AND I SSSUPPOSE HE RAN OFF WITH THE MONEY.?
YOU THINK THAT'D BOTHER ME? NO. .
HE TOOK SELENE ALONG WITH HIM TOO.. THAT BOTHERED ME!
ANYWAY, HE RETIRED...BOUGHT HIMSELF A WHOLE PRIVATE PLANET.. LITTLE PLACE CALLED DISPATER...
DISPATER?
SAW IT ON THE VIS-NEWS A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO... SOME NUT IN THE JARITH CLUSTER REBELLED... CALLS HIMSELF EMPEROR...
DISPATER'S BEEN INVADED BY HIS KILL-MECHS!
HMM. .THEY DO SEEM TO BE GETTING RATHER CLOSE! I'VE GOT SOME GOOD MEN ON THE DEFENCE-LINE, BUT...
YOUR MOVE MERCURIUS...
TELL ME, KLIKBRAIN ...SUPPOSE EVERY MOVE WE MADE ON THE PARA-CHESS BOARD WAS A MINIATURE VERSION OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REAL LIFE...
WHAT WOULD THE ODDS BE AGAINST THAT..?
TIK,TIK!
SEVERAL BILLIONS TO ONE, I SHOULD THINK. .MOST IMPROBABLE!
TIK,TIK!
STILL, IT'S AN INTERESTING THOUGHT, ISN'T IT OLD FRIEND?


LET'S SEE... I THINK I SHOULD STRENGTHEN MY DEFENCES HERE.
MOVE IT! THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME!
BUT THAT EXPOSES YOUR WEAKNESS HERE...
TACTICAL THRUST! ALL UNITS ADVANCE ON VECTOR 329! ERADICATE!
HMM... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN..
ERADICATE THE FLESHY ONES!!
AAAUGH!!
MEANWHILE.
HOW SOON CAN YOU GET US DOWN ON THOSE CO-ORD-INATES I GAVE YOU, SALANDER?
ABOUT FIVE MINUTESSS, ABSESLOM.
I CAN GIVE YOU A PICTURE ON THE LONG RANGE RECONNAISANCE CAMERASSE...
NINE HELLS! MAKE THAT FOUR MINUTES! THREE, IF YOU CAN!
YOUR DEFENCES HAVE BEEN BREACHED, MERCURIUS! YOU MAY AS WELL RESIGN THE GAME...
TIK, TIK!
THERE'S STILL ONE HOPE, KUKBRAIN ...WE HAVEN'T DRAWN THE MIRROR-CARD YET...
I'VE BEEN WITH YOU FIVE YEARS NOW ...AND I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THAT CARD WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE GAME!
IT REPRESENTS THE UNEXPECTED... SOMETHING WHICH COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE FORETOLD...
USED TO CALL IT THE JOKER BACK ON EARTH...
AHH...

TIK,TIK,TIK!
HELLO, DAAK...
LONG TIME, MERCURIUS... GUESS YOU'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME..
IT'S HARD TO FORGET WHEN YOU LEFT ME LIKE THIS...
SEEMED LIKE A FAIR DEAL... YOU TOOK MY GIRL... I TOOK YOUR HAND!
HOW IS SELENE THESE DAYS, ANYWAY?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW? THAT WAS YEARS AGO..
WELL, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO REMEMBER, MERCURIUS!
I'VE A SHIP NEAR BY... AND I'M TAKING YOU OUT OF HERE...
DON'T GO WITH THEM, MERCURIUS!
TIK,TIK!
SHUT UP, TINHEAD! I'M NOT LEAVING YOU HERE FOR THE KILL-MECHS... ...SO EITHER YOU COME WITH US..
OR I KILL YOU NOW MYSELF...
DON'T LEAVE A MAN MUCH CHOICE, DO YOU?
SO LONG, KLIKBRAIN..!
TIK,TI-
DON'T..LEAVE ME.. HERE
...MORE NEXT MONTH

Roger Stern's Old-Fashioned Crunchy-Style Bullpen Bulletins

JIM'S NOT HERE . .

Yep, the world's tallest editor-in-chief is busy being a writer right now (for more on that, see the Hype Box) so he called yours truly and asked me to take over the Bullpen page for this month. Of course I was flattered, but at first I didn't know if I wanted to take on the added responsibility. After all, I have a couple books of my own to write! (That's the AVENGERS and DOCTOR STRANGE, for those of you who just walked in off the street and decided to sneak a peek at the magazines on the newsstand. Shame on you, anyway! This ain't no library, you know!)

Where was I? Oh, yes . . "But, Jim," I told him, "I'm busy enough as it is! I haven't even finished sending out all of my 1984 Christmas cards yet!" There was a pause at the other end of the phone, and I heard a slight quaver in his voice, as he said, "Ohhh, puh-leeezzzz, Roger! You can talk about anything you want! You can even have your name in big letters at the top of the page!" I'd heard that quaver before. I knew that at the other end of the line tears were starting to well up in those big blood-shot eyes of his. I never could stand the thought of a 6' 7" editor-in-chief crying, so I caved in and agreed to help him out.

Besides, I always wanted my name in big letters at the top of the Bullpen Bulletins!

FAR ABOVE CAYUGA'S WATERS . . .

Eleven years ago, the Comic Book Club of Ithaca was founded in Ithaca, New York, by a band of intrepid comic book collectors for the express purpose of promoting the collection, preservation, and appreciation of that great American art form, the comic book. And they've been doing just that for over a tenth of a century. So why am I telling you this? Well, for one thing, the members of the Club are nice people who do good works and deserve recognition. But mainly, I wanted to tell you about Ithacon, the convention they have every April. I went to my first Ithacon four years ago, and I had so much fun, I moved to Ithaca! This year's convention is Ithacon-10, and it looks to be the best show yet. It's going to be held at the Ithaca Ramada Inn, April 20th and 21st. I'll be there, along with John Buscema, Terry Austin, Walt and Louise Simonson, Jim Shooter, Richard and Wendy Pini, and many more! For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Ithacon-10
P.O. Box 701
Ithaca, NY 14851

We hope to see you there. (Hey, and tell 'em Marvel sent you!)

JUST TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT . .

No, I won't tell you who the Hobgoblin is!

AND THEN, THERE WAS THE TIME . . .

You know, the great thing about . . . oh, excuse me! The phone's ringing!

Hello? Oh, hi, Jim! You caught me right in the middle of typing up the Bullpen Bulletins. . . boy, I'm really getting into the swing of this! I never knew this could be so much . . . what's that? I can only fill how many lines? Aw, Jim! I still haven't told about the time I kissed Fred Hembeck's feet . . . or the time you were mistaken for Dave Kingman, back when Kingman was first with the *Mets*. What do you mean, save them for the next time I do the Bullpen Bulletins? Jim? Hello?! Is anybody there?!?

Ahem. Well, it looks like we've run out of space and time . . . which either means we've warped into another dimension, or it's time for me to say good-bye for now. So I will.

See you in the funny papers!

—Roger

HYPE BOX

SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #1 — The Beyonder has arrived on Earth! The X-Men, New Mutants, Dazzler, Captain America and Iron Man are the first line of defense — and the action continues in most of their own titles next month! Mastermind JIM SHOOTER has written a comics *tour de force*, vividly brought to life by the artistic talents of AL MILGROM and STEVE LEIALOHA! The war has come home!

DAZZLER #38 — The *X-Men* help usher in a new era for this popular super heroine! Join ARCHIE GOODWIN (writer), JACKSON GUICE (inker) and talented newcomer PAUL CHADWICK (penciler) for the celebration!

FRED HEMBECK DESTROYS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1 — HEMBECK is on a rampage and no one is safe! Is there a super hero alive who can prevail against his rapier-like wit, his jagged jokes, or his painful puns? Watch for this all-new, double-sized one-time-only extravaganza!

BLACK DRAGON (Limited Series) #1 — CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BOLTON present an intricately crafted tale featuring knights in shining armor, Robin Hood, magic, wizardry and . . . the Black Dragon! Don't miss out on the new heights of graphic excellence in this six-issue EPIC COMICS series!

CHECK-LIST

- **THE THING #25**
- **NEW MUTANTS #29** — Guest-starring *Dazzler!*
- **DAREDEVIL #220**
- **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #4**
- **GARGOYLE (Limited Series) #2**
- **CONAN THE KING #29**
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #266**
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA #307**
- **POWER PACK #12** — Special cross-over issue with *X-Men #195*
- **MICRONAUTS #10**
- **INDIANA JONES #30**
- **DAZZLER #38** — See Hype Box
- **ALPHA FLIGHT #24** — Special *double-size* issue featuring "The Final Conflict!"
- **INCREDIBLE HULK #309**
- **AVENGERS #257**
- **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #172**
- **MARVEL TALES #177**
- **X-MEN #195** — Special cross-over issue with *Power Pack #12!*
- **ROM #68**
- **MOON KNIGHT #2**
- **POWER MAN & IRON FIST #118**
- **G.I. JOE #37**
- **FANTASTIC FOUR #280**
- **IRON MAN #196**
- **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #104**
- **DEFENDERS #145**
- **STAR WARS #97**
- **THOR #357**
- **TRANSFORMERS #8**
- **SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #1**
- **ROCKET RACCOON (Limited Series) #2**
- **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #4** — Find out about everything that happened in *Amazing Spider-Man #65-113!*
- **FRED HEMBECK DESTROYS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1**
- **DOCTOR WHO #10**

[redacted]

- **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #113**
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WHO CARES

Send your letters to: **DOCTOR WHO**, Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Sirs,

I have been caught into the world of **the Doctor** and his companions for only a year, but the year has slipped away full of all the things I could get my hands on. The television version has gone off here in December of 1984, but this new discovery of the comic book series of **the Doctor** has helped to fill in the hunger pains for the time being.

I have read much about the remarks of the other people and just wanted to get in my two cents worth. I think the artwork is very well done. I have seen some comics where the characters are not anything like themselves. I like the storylines because they can keep pace with **the Doctor's** crazy trips through time and space. I am just a new fan and I don't care if these are leftovers from the British mag as they are new to me and I am completely enjoying them.

Please keep up the good work and quality, for I have become a collector of these great books. I don't collect them for money, but to continue to enjoy them over the years.

Audrey Church
1206 Woodland Street
Nashville, TN 37206

Thanks, *Audrey*. But did you have to call our stories "leftovers"? We like to refer to them as *Doctor Who* classics lovingly re-presented in breath-taking color on high-quality Baxter paper. Then again, we may be a tad biased.

Dear Marvel,

I am a 32-year-old English Major who is neither a comic book freak nor a Science Fiction buff — but I *have* become a great fan of *Doctor Who*.

I found the marvelous whimsy and humor that (for me) represented the **Tom Baker** years also permeates your fun comic book — so I'm doing something I never thought I'd do — ordering a year's subscription!

However, I have discovered that this unique quality is mostly missing (for me) in the other **Doctors**, and even in the novels that don't feature **Tom Baker**. It is apparent from letters in the *Who Cares* column that other's don't feel this way, which I understand. But I did feel the need to send a letter adding my voice to those cheering for **Tom**. I'm glad you selected him as the first **Doctor** in your series, and I'm afraid that when he goes, I do too!

J. Young
8480 Dynasty Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

C'Mon, *J*, please reconsider. Besides, you never know when the *Tom Baker Doctor* might pop back into our pages. And perhaps that unique quality (for you) will resurface in the way we handle some of the other *Doctors* in our stories. Who knows?

Dear Marvel and **Jim**,

I'm sure that you're receiving letters of praise by the ton, but I hope that you still have time to read and maybe print mine. When I first saw your comic in the store I bought it at first only because it would make an interesting addition to my *Doctor Who* collection. But when I opened up the cover and began to read, I discovered that *this* was an *excellent* mag. The next day I begged Mom to stop after work to pick up issue #2, which at first I had turned down because of price. I love **Dave Gibbons'** artwork and pray that you don't take the so-called "**Lady Jennika's**" strong advice. I hope she gives this comic a second chance, but if not, it's her loss. The letters column is very enjoyable, as are the great stories. The diamond logo is very appropriate and the covers are interesting. I was wondering if any other readers had noticed that the little TARDIS in the corner is always a little bit different? Keep up the superb work. My favorite stories were "Dogs of Doom" and "The Star Beast."

Who fan #1
Brad Huppert
1002 Pine Street
Prescott, WI 54021

Thanks, *Brad*. We're glad you like the diamond-shaped logo, but it seems that the neon tube logo has won the war of the logos. We've already started using it on the first pages of *the Doctor's* adventures and will begin to use it on our covers beginning with issue 13. We're hoping the millions of loyal *Doctor Who* fans who refused to buy our comic book with the diamond logo will finally break down and give us a try.

Dear Marvel,

All right, I had it!! I am as mad as hell and I won't take it anymore!! I am sick and tired of all you *Doctor Who* fans complaining about the comic book in the letters section. It's driving me nuts!! So let me be the first person to admit the following . . .

I LOVE the comic book stories about *Doctor Who* a.k.a. **Tom Baker**. Remember, patience is a virtue. Ask **Peter Davison**.

I LOVE the TARDIS insignia on the magazine (and it shouldn't be touched with a ten foot pole).

I LOVE the extra stories in the back that improve with each issue.

I LOVE the drawings done by **Dave Gibbons** . . .

Need I say more? Look, I know there is such a thing as freedom of speech and I understand why it's necessary for you to complain, but a comic book cannot change in 7 ISSUES!!

So please, give the editors a break and relax!! I'm sure they will do their best to make all your wishes come true.

Love to the Staff,
Secundra Beasly
12517 Lancelot
Cleveland, OH 44108

Thanks for the heartfelt vote of confidence, *Secundra*. We hope to continue to be worthy of your trust. You're right, we

are trying to follow up on every suggestion we receive and it does take time before the results can be seen in these pages. But don't be hard on our critics. It's because they care that they take the time to offer their views. We will always welcome critical letters and do our best to make this the best magazine possible.

Dear Whovians,

DOCTOR WHO #7 was the best yet! "Dragon's Claw" was a great story, though I wish it showed more of **the Sontarans**. The Bookshelf was interesting, though I'm disappointed to hear that "The Daleks" is written in first person. And lasty, "The Dalek-Killer" got better as it went along, though I'm still not fond of **Absiom Daak**.

Now, if you're looking for advice, I'm full of that. Lend me your ears: I agree with the others that you should use logos that were used with each respective **Doctor** (Diamond logo for **Tom Baker**, neon for **Davison**, etc.). The logo you have now is a combination of the first and fourth logos. The one it should be is the one featured in the upper-left corner of page one.

Feature portfolios of all **the Doctors** by Marvel artists and, of course, new stories.

Print more letters from other Whovians.

Have **the Doctor** meet up with the likes of **the Fantastic Four**, or **the X-Men**, **Spider-Man** and other Marvel characters to show he's part of the family and bring back old companions. If the BBC lets you use **the Doctor's** likeness, why not any of his companions?

Lastly, get rid of the ad on the back cover and the Bullpen Bulletins. You should really dedicate more space to **the Doctor**.

Anthony Padilla
3701 Oakgreen Ave. N.
Stillwater, MN 55082

Thanks for the advice, *Anthony*. We agree with most of it and are working on it. But the reason we feature the Bullpen Bulletins and the ad for *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* is that, unlike you, many of our readers are new to comics in general and Marvel in particular. We hope that the Bullpen Bulletins will make them aware of the many other fine comics published by Marvel. Titles such as *TIME SPIRITS*, *EPIC ILLUSTRATED*, *ELFQUEST*, *X-MEN*, *NEW MUTANTS*, etc., may be of special interest to fans of *Doctor Who*, Science Fiction, and Fantasy. *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* is sold wherever *DOCTOR WHO* is available, and at only 35¢ an issue it's an incredibly inexpensive way to find out more about what Marvel's got to offer.

Dear **Jim**,

Although issue seven of your wonderful **DOCTOR WHO** comic was probably the best issue to date, I wanted to take a moment to point out a piece of misinformation that found its way into **Patrick Daniel O'Neill's** "Bookshelf" column.

Mr. O'Neill claims that Target Books began their series of *Doctor Who* books in 1964, which simply isn't so. *Doctor Who and the Daleks*, *Doctor Who and the Crusaders*, and *Doctor Who and the Zarbi* were all published in hardcover in 1965 by Frederick Muller, Ltd. Target did not acquire the rights until much later, and released their versions on May 3, 1973. When "The Daleks" made it to the top ten children's bestseller list, they were inspired to continue the series. So Target has now been novelizing the stories for twelve years, not the twenty-one years **Mr. O'Neill** would have us believe!

I really don't mean to nit-pick, but in matters of "real" time, let's check our facts more carefully. Best in '85.

Thomas F. Smith
374 Pine Lane
Haworth, NJ 07641

Thanks for setting the record straight, *Thomas*. We'll try to be more careful in the future.

Dear **WHO** Crew,

Re: **DOCTOR WHO** #8.

I don't want to get your colorist, **Andy Yanchus**, upset, but he's made a major boo-boo with the second story, "Dreamers of Death." **Tom Baker** started wearing the shirt with question-marked lapels in the 18th and final season of **the Doctor's** fourth incarnation. At the same time, he wore a dark red or burgundy colored coat, a red-and-blue-violet striped scarf (not the multi-colored early scarf), argyle socks and red (same color as the coast) shoes. In some episodes he switched back to boots, but he always wore burgundy-red with that shirt.

The next time artwork is featured with that type of shirt on **Tom**, **Yanchus** should remember to locate a color photo of **the Doctor** during the 1980-81 season. But look on the bright side: at least he won't have to worry about using seven colors at various lengths anymore!

Victor Wong
4569 W. 11th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6R2M5
CANADA

Well, *Victor*, we're going to try and wiggle our way out of this one. First off, *Andy* was well aware of *the Doctor's* outfit during *Tom Baker's* last season. Check out page two of the very issue you mention, and you'll see the burgundy-red hat, coat, and scarf hanging in the TARDIS. Secondly, our stories are not adaptations of specific episodes of *Doctor Who*, which means there's nothing wrong with our comic-book *Tom Baker* wearing a shirt from one outfit with the hat and scarf from another outfit. Who says *the Doctor never* wore such a combination? Since these are original stories they don't necessarily conflict with the television episodes. The point is really moot since we're featuring the all-burgundy red outfit now anyway.

Keep these cards and letters coming, and we'll be seeing you in the future!

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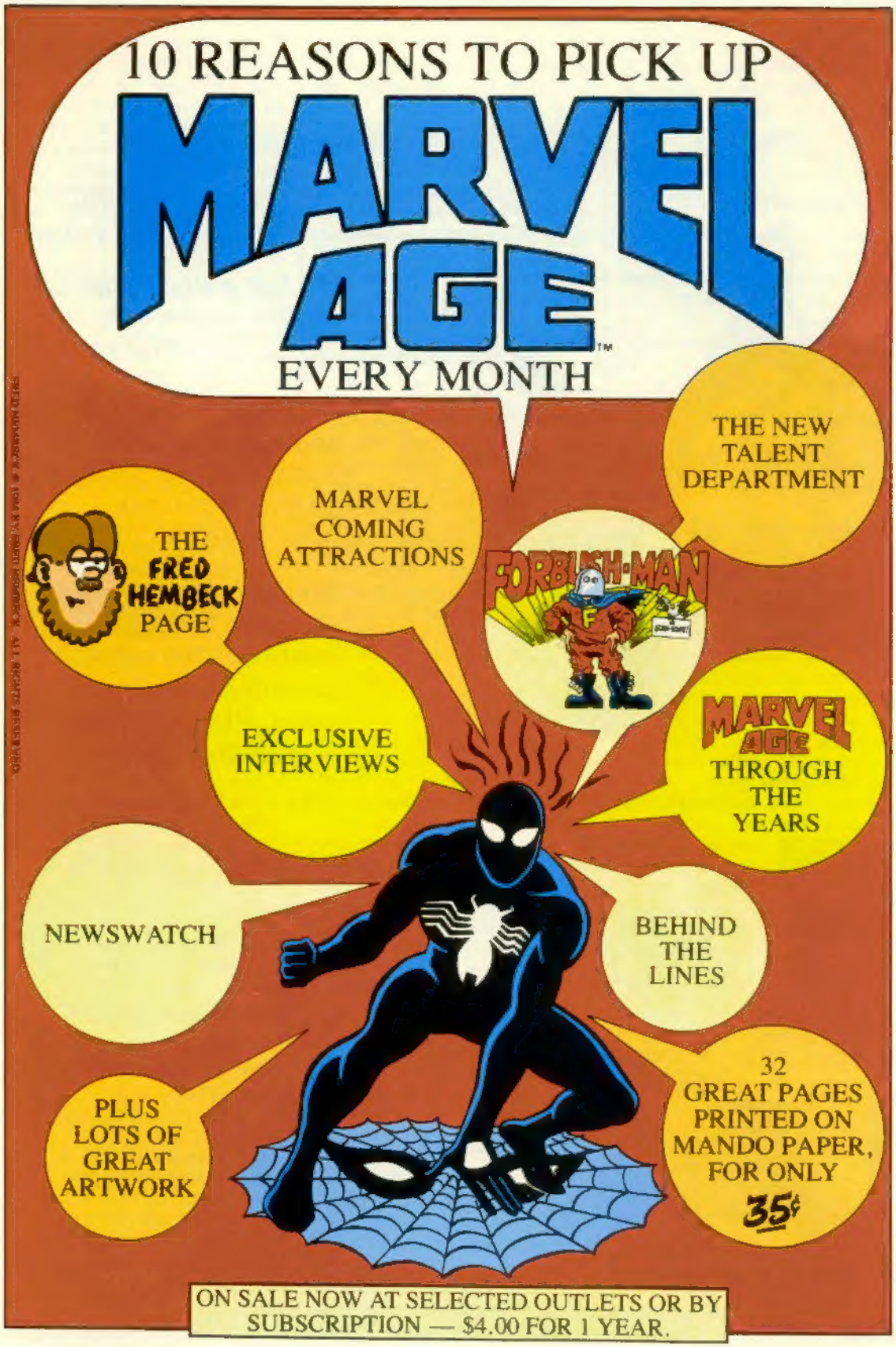
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